

Drug Coverage Decision for B.C. PharmaCare

About PharmaCare

B.C. PharmaCare is a government-funded drug plan. It helps British Columbians with the cost of eligible prescription drugs and specific medical supplies.

Details of Drug Reviewed

Drug	certolizumab
Brand Name	Cimzia®
Dosage Form(s)	200 mg/mL
Manufacturer	UCB Canada Inc.
Submission Review	New Submission
Use Reviewed	Certolizumab is indicated for the treatment of ankylosing spondylitis (AS)
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes. CDR recommended: List with criteria . Visit the CDR website for more details: www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_SR0385_Cimzia-AS_Apr-21-15.pdf
Drug Benefit Council (DBC) or Provincial Review (choose one)	DBC now screens drug submissions under review by the CDR to determine whether or not a full DBC review is necessary, based on past DBC reviews, recommendations, and existing PharmaCare coverage. If a full DBC review is determined to not be required, the Ministry's drug coverage decision will be based on the CDEC recommendation and an internal review only. The DBC screened certolizumab on February 2, 2015. The DBC advised that because certolizumab is similar to some of the other drugs used for the treatment of AS, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for certolizumab.
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage Benefit. Access the certolizumab criteria from www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority
Date	February 19, 2016
Reason(s)	The Ministry of Health (Ministry) reviewed clinical evidence and pharmacoeconomic reports prepared by the CDR, the final Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) Recommendation and Reasons, and patient input from one patient and two patient groups collected through the Ministry's patient input mechanism, Your Voice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on CDR review, certolizumab demonstrated superiority and clinically meaningful improvements over placebo in clinical response, disease activity and function. Because there is no head-to-head trial with any other drugs for the treatment of AS, there is no evidence that certolizumab is more effective or safer than other drugs. Based on the submitted price, for the first year of treatment, the annual cost of certolizumab is comparable to other alternatives but is less costly in subsequent years. The Ministry participated in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) negotiations with UCB Canada Inc. for certolizumab, and the participating jurisdictions were able to reach an agreement with the manufacturer.
Other Information	None

The Drug Review Process in B.C.

A manufacturer submits a request to the Ministry of Health (Ministry).

An independent group called the [Drug Benefit Council](#) (DBC) gives advice to the Ministry. The DBC looks at:

- advice from a national group called the Common Drug Review
- whether the drug is safe and effective
- whether it is a good value for the people of B.C.
- the ethics of covering or not covering the drug
- input from physicians, patients, caregivers, patient groups and drug submission sponsors

The Ministry makes a decision based on many factors, including:

- advice from the DBC
- drugs used to treat similar medical conditions that B.C. PharmaCare already covers
- the overall cost of covering the drug

Visit the B.C. [Drug Review Process](#) and [PharmaCare](#) program for more information.

This document is intended for information only.

It does not take the place of advice from a physician or other qualified health care provider.